



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT WINS NATIONAL AWARD** ***Crumbine Award Honors County Food Safety Program***

The County of San Diego's Department of Environmental Health has won a prestigious national award for protecting public health with its food safety program.

The 2005 Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award for Excellence in Food Protection will be presented to San Diego County officials at the annual conference of the National Environmental Health Association, June 25-29 in Providence, R.I.

The award, now in its 50<sup>th</sup> year, is named after a renowned public health pioneer in the United States. The award is presented to a local public health agency by a group of leading environmental health officials and is considered the most prestigious recognition that a public health unit can receive. Crumbine winners usually serve as models for other public health and safety programs across the nation.

"San Diego clearly provided an excellent program submittal that involved an industry and public input process creating a clear vision with effective program planning. Their model truly exemplifies that environmental leadership that Samuel J. Crumbine would be proud of," said David F. Ludwig, division manager at Maricopa County, Ariz., Environmental Health and chair of the 2005 jury.

The jury cited County program for its clear vision, backed up with goals and objectives; industry and community involvement; and strong education program.

Gary Erbeck, director of the County Department of Environmental Health, said he was pleased and honored to accept the award. "This is a prestigious recognition and a testament to the vision, dedication and hard work of our environmental health professionals who strive to prevent and reduce food borne illnesses," Erbeck said.

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